

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305, titled Medical Dispute Resolution-General, and 133.307, titled Medical Dispute Resolution of a Medical Fee Dispute, a review was conducted by the Division regarding a medical fee dispute between the requestor and the respondent named above. This dispute was received on 4/8/03.

I. DISPUTE

Whether there should be reimbursement for 76000 - fluoroscopy and A4644 – contrast material, dated 5/13/02 and denied on the basis of “G” – global to epidural injection.

II. RATIONALE

Per Advisory 97-01, “If a health care provider believes fluoroscopic assistance (fluoroscope) is medically necessary when performing an injection on a particular patient, and it is not included in the procedure, the provider shall bill the appropriate CPT code for the injection and the appropriate CPT code for the fluoroscopic assistance.” The letter of medical necessity from the treating doctor, dated 5/13/02, stated that the fluoroscope was medically necessary to properly site the injection. On this basis, reimbursement of \$110.00 for the fluoroscopy is recommended.

The medical documentation submitted by the requestor verified that an epidurography was administered to the injured worker, which by definition includes the use of contrast material. The MFG / Radiology / Nuclear Medicine Ground Rules(II)(A)(1-3), the billed procedure A4644 shall be reimbursed when a non-ionic contrast material is used for the ESI. It also states, the contrast material will not be reimbursed when ionic contrast material is used. A review of the medical report dated 5/13/02, did not state whether ionic contrast or non-ionic contrast material was used in the injection. As the Commission was unable to determine which contrast material was used, reimbursement is not recommended.

III. DECISION & ORDER

Based upon the review of the disputed healthcare services within this request, the Division has determined that the requestor **is** entitled to reimbursement for 76000 in the amount of **\$110.00**. Pursuant to Sections 402.042, 413.016, 413.031, and 413.019 the Division hereby ORDERS the Respondent to remit **\$110.00** plus all accrued interest due at the time of payment to the Requestor within 20 days receipt of this Order.

The above Findings, Decision and Order are hereby issued this 12th day of October, 2004.

Noel L. Beavers
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division